## CLAIMS

1. Detergent particles having an average particle size of from 150 to 500 μm and a bulk density of

5    500 g/liter or more, wherein the detergent particles comprise a detergent particle being capable of releasing a bubble from an inner portion of the detergent particle in a process of dissolving the detergent particle in water, the bubble having a size of one-tenth or more of a

10   particle size of the detergent particle, and wherein the detergent particles have a dissolution rate of 90% or more, under conditions where the detergent particles are supplied in water at 5°C; stirred for 60 seconds under the stirring conditions that 1 g of the detergent particles is

15   supplied to a one-liter beaker having an inner diameter of 105 mm which is charged with one-liter of hard water having 71.2 mg $CaCO_3$/liter, wherein a molar ratio of Ca/Mg is 7/3, and stirred with a stirring bar of 35 mm in length and 8 mm in diameter at a rotational speed of 800 rpm; and

20   filtered with a standard sieve having a sieve-opening of 74 μm as defined by JIS Z 8801, wherein the dissolution rate of the detergent particles is calculated by Equation (1):

Dissolution Rate (%) = [1 - (T/S)] × 100           (1)

25   wherein S is a weight (g) of the detergent particles

supplied; and

T is a dry weight (g) of remaining insolubles of the detergent particles remaining on the sieve when a liquid prepared under the above stirring conditions is filtered

5  with the sieve, wherein drying conditions for the remaining insolubles are keeping at a temperature of 105°C for 1 hour, and then in a desiccator with a silica gel at 25°C for 30 minutes.

10    2.    Detergent particles having an average particle size of from 150 to 500 μm and a bulk density of 500 g/liter or more, wherein the detergent particles comprise a detergent particle being capable of releasing a bubble from an inner portion of the detergent particle in

15  a process of dissolving the detergent particle in water, the bubble having a size of one-tenth or more of a particle size of the detergent particle, and wherein the detergent particles have a dissolution rate of 82% or more, under conditions where the detergent particles are

20  supplied in water at 5°C; stirred for 30 seconds under the stirring conditions that 1 g of the detergent particles is supplied to a one-liter beaker having an inner diameter of 105 mm which is charged with one-liter of hard water having 71.2 mg $CaCO_3$/liter, wherein a molar ratio of Ca/Mg

25  is 7/3, and stirred with a stirring bar of 35 mm in length

and 8 mm in diameter at a rotational speed of 800 rpm; and
filtered with a standard sieve having a sieve-opening of
74 μm as defined by JIS Z 8801, wherein the dissolution
rate of the detergent particles is calculated by Equation
(1):

Dissolution Rate (%) = [1 - (T/S)] × 100          (1)

wherein S is a weight (g) of the detergent particles
supplied; and
T is a dry weight (g) of remaining insolubles of the
detergent particles remaining on the sieve when a liquid
prepared under the above stirring conditions is filtered
with the sieve, wherein drying conditions for the
remaining insolubles are keeping at a temperature of 105°C
for 1 hour, and then in a desiccator with a silica gel at
25°C for 30 minutes.

3.    The detergent particles according to claim 1 or
2, wherein the detergent particles are a collective of a
detergent particle comprising a base particle comprising a
water-insoluble inorganic compound, a water-soluble
polymer and a water-soluble salt, and a surfactant
supported by the base particle, wherein the base particle
has a localized structure in which larger portions of the
water-soluble polymer and the water-soluble salt are
present near the surface of the base particle rather than

in the inner portion thereof.

     4.   Detergent particles having an average particle size of from 150 to 500 μm and a bulk density of 500 g/liter or more, wherein the detergent particles are a collective of a detergent particle comprising a base particle comprising a water-insoluble inorganic compound, a water-soluble polymer and a water-soluble salt, and a surfactant supported by the base particle, wherein the base particle has a localized structure in which larger portions of the water-soluble polymer and the water-soluble salt are present near the surface of the base particle rather than in the inner portion thereof, and wherein the detergent particles have a dissolution rate of 90% or more, under conditions where the detergent particles are supplied in water at 5°C; stirred for 60 seconds under the stirring conditions that 1 g of the detergent particles is supplied to a one-liter beaker having an inner diameter of 105 mm which is charged with one-liter of hard water having 71.2 mg CaCO$_3$/liter, wherein a molar ratio of Ca/Mg is 7/3, and stirred with a stirring bar of 35 mm in length and 8 mm in diameter at a rotational speed of 800 rpm; and filtered with a standard sieve having a sieve-opening of 74 μm as defined by JIS Z 8801, wherein the dissolution rate of the detergent

particles is calculated by Equation (1):

$$\text{Dissolution Rate (\%)} = [1 - (T/S)] \times 100 \qquad (1)$$

wherein S is a weight (g) of the detergent particles
supplied; and

5    T is a dry weight (g) of remaining insolubles of the
detergent particles remaining on the sieve when a liquid
prepared under the above stirring conditions is filtered
with the sieve, wherein drying conditions for the
remaining insolubles are keeping at a temperature of 105°C

10   for 1 hour, and then in a desiccator with a silica gel at
25°C for 30 minutes.


   5.    Detergent particles having an average particle
size of from 150 to 500 μm and a bulk density of

15   500 g/liter or more, wherein the detergent particles are a
collective of a detergent particle comprising a base
particle comprising a water-insoluble inorganic compound,
a water-soluble polymer and a water-soluble salt, and a
surfactant supported by the base particle, wherein the

20   base particle has a localized structure in which larger
portions of the water-soluble polymer and the
water-soluble salt are present near the surface of the
base particle rather than in the inner portion thereof,
and wherein the detergent particles have a dissolution

25   rate of 82% or more, under conditions where the detergent

particles are supplied in water at 5°C; stirred for
30 seconds under the stirring conditions that 1 g of the
detergent particles is supplied to a one-liter beaker
having an inner diameter of 105 mm which is charged with
5    one-liter of hard water having 71.2 mg CaCO$_3$/liter, wherein
a molar ratio of Ca/Mg is 7/3, and stirred with a stirring
bar of 35 mm in length and 8 mm in diameter at a
rotational speed of 800 rpm; and filtered with a standard
sieve having a sieve-opening of 74 μm as defined by JIS Z
10   8801, wherein the dissolution rate of the detergent
particles is calculated by Equation (1):

$$\text{Dissolution Rate (\%)} = [1 - (T/S)] \times 100 \qquad (1)$$

wherein S is a weight (g) of the detergent particles
supplied; and
15   T is a dry weight (g) of remaining insolubles of the
detergent particles remaining on the sieve when a liquid
prepared under the above stirring conditions is filtered
with the sieve, wherein drying conditions for the
remaining insolubles are keeping at a temperature of 105°C
20   for 1 hour, and then in a desiccator with a silica gel at
25°C for 30 minutes.

6.    The detergent particles according to claim 4 or
5, wherein the detergent particles comprise a detergent
25   particle having pores in the inner portion thereof having

a size of one-tenth to four-fifth of the particle size.

7.     The detergent particles according to any one of claims 4 to 6, wherein the base particle comprises 20 to 90% by weight of the water-insoluble inorganic compound; 2 to 30% by weight of the water-soluble polymer; and 5 to 78% by weight of the water-soluble salt.

8.     The detergent particles according to any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein the detergent particles comprise a uni-core detergent particle.

9.     A method for preparing the detergent particles as defined in any one of claims 1 to 8, comprising the steps of:

Step (a): preparing a slurry containing a water-insoluble inorganic compound, a water-soluble polymer, and a water-soluble salt, wherein 60% by weight or more of water-soluble components including the water-soluble polymer and the water-soluble salt is dissolved in the slurry;

Step (b): spray-drying the slurry obtained in Step (a) to prepare base particles; and

Step (c): adding a surfactant to the base particles obtained in Step (b) to support the surfactant

thereby.

10. A detergent composition comprising the detergent particles as defined in any one of claims 1 to 8 in an amount of 50% by weight or more.

11. A detergent composition having an average particle size of from 150 to 500 μm and a bulk density of 500 g/liter or more, wherein the detergent composition comprises a detergent particle being capable of releasing a bubble from an inner portion of the detergent particle in a process of dissolving the detergent particle in water, the bubble having a size of one-tenth or more of a particle size of the detergent particle, and wherein the detergent composition has a dissolution rate of 90% or more, under conditions where the detergent composition is supplied in water at 5°C; stirred for 60 seconds under the stirring conditions that 1 g of the detergent composition is supplied to a one-liter beaker having an inner diameter of 105 mm which is charged with one-liter of hard water having 71.2 mg $CaCO_3$/liter, wherein a molar ratio of Ca/Mg is 7/3, and stirred with a stirring bar of 35 mm in length and 8 mm in diameter at a rotational speed of 800 rpm; and filtered with a standard sieve having a sieve-opening of 74 μm as defined by JIS Z 8801, wherein the dissolution

rate of the detergent composition is calculated by
Equation (1):

$$\text{Dissolution Rate (\%)} = [1 - (T/S)] \times 100 \tag{1}$$

wherein S is a weight (g) of the detergent composition
supplied; and

T is a dry weight (g) of remaining insolubles of the
detergent composition remaining on the sieve when a liquid
prepared under the above stirring conditions is filtered
with the sieve, wherein drying conditions for the
remaining insolubles are keeping at a temperature of 105°C
for 1 hour, and then in a desiccator with a silica gel at
25°C for 30 minutes.

12.  A detergent composition having an average
particle size of from 150 to 500 μm and a bulk density of
500 g/liter or more, wherein the detergent composition
comprises a detergent particle being capable of releasing
a bubble from an inner portion of the detergent particle
in a process of dissolving the detergent particle in
water, the bubble having a size of one-tenth or more of a
particle size of the detergent particle, and wherein the
detergent composition has a dissolution rate of 82% or
more, under conditions where the detergent composition is
supplied in water at 5°C; stirred for 30 seconds under the
stirring conditions that 1 g of the detergent composition

is supplied to a one-liter beaker having an inner diameter
of 105 mm which is charged with one-liter of hard water
having 71.2 mg $CaCO_3$/liter, wherein a molar ratio of Ca/Mg
is 7/3, and stirred with a stirring bar of 35 mm in length
5   and 8 mm in diameter at a rotational speed of 800 rpm; and
filtered with a standard sieve having a sieve-opening of
74 μm as defined by JIS Z 8801, wherein the dissolution
rate of the detergent composition is calculated by
Equation (1):

10      Dissolution Rate (%) = [1 - (T/S)] × 100          (1)

wherein S is a weight (g) of the detergent composition
supplied; and

T is a dry weight (g) of remaining insolubles of the
detergent composition remaining on the sieve when a liquid
15   prepared under the above stirring conditions is filtered
with the sieve, wherein drying conditions for the
remaining insolubles are keeping at a temperature of 105°C
for 1 hour, and then in a desiccator with a silica gel at
25°C for 30 minutes.

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